

Remember the Titans. I join the Gary NAACP in welcoming Mr. Boone to Northwest Indiana.

This year, the Gary NAACP will honor six outstanding individuals from Northwest Indiana, who will join the hundreds of other outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders who have previously been recognized as life members. For 2010, the distinguished individuals who will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP are: Vanessa Allen, Anna Connor, Geneva Osawe Gonzales, Dr. Danita Johnson Hughes, Hattie McCune, and Cheron Reed.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the newest life members of the Gary NAACP, as well as Attorney Karen Pulliam, the current Gary NAACP president, and all members of the organization for their extraordinary efforts and tremendous leadership. These outstanding men and women have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and for that they are to be commended.

CELEBRATING MARGARET GANDY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and philanthropic contributions of Margaret Gandy, and to acknowledge the pride in the legacy she left with the Tampa Bay community. Her guidance and encouragement to students proved instrumental in improving the lives of thousands of families.

Born in Orlando, Ms. Gandy graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in recreation education and a master's degree in religious education from Duke University's Divinity School. After serving as a religious education director in North Carolina and Girl Scouts executive director in Volusia County, Ms. Gandy and her husband, Bill, settled in south Tampa in 1973.

As her two children went through school, Ms. Gandy volunteered her time in the school clinics and served on various PTA committees. When they began attending Plant High School in 1980, she devoted her time to helping high school seniors navigate the college admissions and financial aid process and organized her first college night. Her passion for helping students get into college compelled Plant High School to create a full-time position for her in 1986, the first of its kind in Hillsborough County, as the school's college guidance resource specialist. Over the years, she created a model for coaching students through the application process, which is now used in high schools throughout Florida. In 2002, the Tampa Rotary Club gave her its outstanding educator award for her work with students.

After 18 years of dedicated service, she retired in 2003. In her tenure, she helped approximately 6,000 students, including a member of my staff, to apply and gain admittance into higher education. She had a gift for matching students with schools that fit their personality and interests. In her last year, Plant High School seniors received \$10 million

in scholarships. Even after retirement, she continued to share her knowledge and strategies for college admissions by creating an online consulting company to help students find the perfect college match, regardless of a family's budget.

The philanthropic contributions of Margaret Gandy have unquestionably improved the lives of thousands of Floridians on the path to higher education.

The Tampa community honors the life of Margaret Gandy, her husband Bill, son Lee and daughter Marcia, and the entire Gandy family for their outstanding contributions to the Florida families. Margaret Gandy's life serves as an inspiration to all who knew her, and will continue to impact the lives of Floridians in the future.

TAX DAY

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, "Excessive taxation . . . will carry reason and reflection to every man's door, and particularly in the hour of election." Thomas Jefferson spoke these words in 1798. These words will ring true once again this November, 212 years later. Why? This Congress and the Obama administration refuse to recognize the burden they are placing on Americans with constant tax and spend schemes. Since President Obama took office he has enacted nearly \$700 billion in new taxes. This amounts to more than \$2,100 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Not only are the taxes in this country outrageous, the balance of those who pay taxes are also becoming more and more out of balance. But not all people believe this is the case. A recent CBS News poll showed 50 percent of Americans think the amount they pay in taxes is fair. Yet according to the non-partisan Tax Policy Center, 47 percent of American households will not owe any federal income tax for tax year 2009. Coincidence? I think not. Almost half of Americans do not pay taxes and believe that to be fair?

Our current tax code is ridiculously complicated, horribly unfair, and bad for the economy. It inhibits saving, investment and job creation, and imposes a heavy burden on families.

Americans know when spending and taxation is out of control. In fact, back in December 1773, a group of American colonists called the Sons of Liberty boarded a ship docked in Boston harbor that was filled with boxes of tea from the East India Company. What were they protesting? The "Tea Act". The act was designed to prop up the East India Company, which was floundering financially and burdened with 18 million pounds of unsold tea. It was a 17th century bailout. Colonists boarded the ship and tossed the tea into the harbor, in protest of the Tea Act, which had recently been enacted by the British government. This tea party led to the realization that America must be freed from Great Britain in order to become a true democracy.

Today, over 200 years after the great tea party, I stand with Kansans and patriotic tea partiers nationwide who are outraged by

Washington's untamed penchant for taxing, borrowing and spending our hard-earned dollars. We've had enough. This runaway spending and taxing must stop. Yet, the Democrat Congress and the Obama Administration continue to propose and pass legislation that increase taxes and spending and jeopardize our future.

We need across-the-board spending cuts throughout the federal government and tax relief for American families and businesses. This is one of many steps we should be taking to create high-quality jobs and spark long-term economic growth without a new government spending program.

Just this week, I introduced a congressional resolution condemning a massive value added tax (VAT) system being considered by the Obama administration. Americans have already been subjected to one of the highest tax increases in our nation's history as part of recently passed healthcare reform. American families and the American economy cannot flourish under this level of taxation.

Despite this trajectory, our country could be on a 10-month recovery plan. First, the federal government must end the bailouts, reduce spending and lower taxes for all Americans.

The private sector, not government bureaucrats, knows how money should be spent, what resources are needed, and what type of training workers will require. Unfortunately too many government roadblocks stand in the way of business development—and deter investment by those here and abroad. Steps we can and will take to restore our nation's competitiveness and ensure that America remains the Land of Opportunity: Tax Relief and Simplification, Liability Reform, Regulatory Reform, Healthcare Security, Energy Independence.

On this day, as Americans unite to demand that our government stop spending into bankruptcy, I pledge to continue the fight to return money and power back to American families as our founding fathers intended.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today, tax day, our national debt is \$12,823,492,436,215.11.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,185,066,689,921.31 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans. On tax day, the American public certainly should dread how we will pay this debt if meaningful reform is not enacted, and enacted soon—by yet more taxes. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.J. Res 1, the Balanced Budget Amendment. We need to bring fiscal responsibility to our spending.